

ATTACHMENT

22 April 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Soviet Estimates of the Strategic Nuclear Balance

1. This confirms the results of a conversation with Bobby Inman, John Bross, and Bob Gates. It was our view that we can improve our approach to how the Soviets estimate the strategic nuclear balance by doing the following.
2. The first step would be to outline a first cut at the problem. Such an outline is attached as Appendix 1.
3. The second step would be to convene a one-day meeting of those deemed most knowledgeable with respect to this set of problems within the CIA and other agencies of the government, as well as among outside contractors. The purpose of this meeting would be to refine the outline and assign specific tasks to those most qualified and able to carry them out. A list of those to be invited is included as Appendix 2.
4. The third step would be to supervise the execution of the assigned tasks.
5. The fourth step would be to draft an integrated report.
6. The target would be to do as thorough and objective a job as can be done in two months. Allowance should be made that with the best of will, the program, in all probability, will slip by another two months.
7. At the end of 60 to 120 days, you should be able to judge whether this approach is useful or runs into too great uncertainties to be worth continuing.
8. The project will require contractor support.
9. We propose to proceed with the initial meeting on 30 April.

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Attachments:
Appendix I
Appendix II

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